CHAPTER I.

EXTENSION AND CONSTITUTION OF STATE FORESTS.

(i).—ALTERATION OF AREA,

AND

(ii).—FOREST SETTLEMENTS.

The following table shews the changes that have taken place during the past year in the area of the State forests of the Southern Circle :—

Names of Districts.	Area on 1st July 1896.		Added during the year.		Excluded or transferred to other heads.		Area on 30th June 1897.		Total Forest Area.
	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	Reserved.	Protected.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.	Sq. m. a.
Kánara	1,264 346	2,227 561	665 596	...	0 35	664 377	1,930 267	1,563 184	3,493 451
Belgaum	665 179	11 57	0 402	...	0 91	...	665 490	11 57	676 547
Dhárwár	364 544	.....	1 508	...	3 356	...	363 56	.....	363 56
Bijápur	155 56	89 409	116 200	...	1 309	89 409	269 587	.....	269 587
Kolába	439 15	5 582	10 81	...	0 1	2 89	449 95	3 493	452 588
Ratnágiri	22 93	.....	0 7	...	0 4	...	21 736	.....	21 736
Total ...	2,910 593	2,334 329	794 514	...	5 156	756 235	3,700 311	1,578 94	5,278 405

2. The territorial changes sanctioned in Government Resolution No. 10330, dated 17th December 1896, were given effect to from 1st January 1897, under which Kánara was divided into the Northern, Southern and Western Divisions, instead of the Northern, Central and Southern as formerly. The Northern and Southern Divisions, as at present constituted, comprise all the ghát ranges of Kánara, while the several coast ranges now form the Western Division. The redistribution of these ranges, as transferred from the old to the new three divisions, is as shown below :—

Old.		*New.*	
Kárwár	Northern Division, Kánara.	Haliyál	Northern Division, Kánara.
Haliyál		Supa	
Supa			
Ankola	Central Division, Kánara.	Yellápur	Southern Division, Kánara.
Yellápur		Mundgod	
Mundgod ...		Sirsi	
		Siddápur	
Kumpta	Southern Division, Kánara.	Kárwár	Western Division, Kánara.
Honávar		Ankola	
Sirsi		Kumpta	
Siddápur		Honávar	

3. The alteration in the reserved area of Kánara is owing to the transfer of 1 square mile 230 acres, from Dhárwár, and to 664 square miles 365 acres of Supa having been made 'Reserved.' One acre was also found in excess of the original figures owing to rectification of areas previously notified. The area in Supa was originally entered as "Protected," and is, therefore, deducted from the figures in column 7 of the above table, along with 12 acres which were found less than the original acreage according to corrections made in the previous notifications. Of the 35 acres shewn in column 6, 5 are on account of disafforestation, and 30 are due to errors in the original notifications, which were rectified during the year under report.

4. In Belgaum, 391 acres were added to the reserved area of Gokák, and 62 acres were disafforested from the Sampgaon forest reserves. The other changes in the division are due to errors in the notifications of past years.

5. The changes in Dhárwár are due to 1 square mile 508 acres newly added to "Reserved." Of the 3 square miles 356 acres shewn in column 6, 1 square mile 488 acres of Ron and 1 square mile 230 acres of Kalghatgi were transferred to Bijápur and Kánara, respectively, and 278 acres were disafforested in Navalgund.

6. In Bijápur, the "Protected" forests (89 square miles 409 acres) were converted into, and 23 square miles 588 acres were newly added to, "Reserved." Two square miles 503 acres were also found in excess of the original acreage, owing to corrections in survey papers. The area (1 square mile 309 acres) entered in column 6, was disafforested from the reserved forests of the division on final settlement.

7. In Kolába, 2 square miles 89 acres were converted from "Protected" into, and 7 square miles 632 acres were added to, "Reserved". One acre was disafforested from the "Reserved" area.

8. In Ratnágiri, 7 acres were added to, and 4 deducted from, the reserved area. The latter was owing to errors in past years' notifications rectified during the year under report.

9. Mr. Sheppard, who was by Government Resolution No. 8798, dated 7th November 1896, appointed Personal Assistant to the Collector of Bijápur, continued to hold charge of the Forest Settlement Office, Kánara, in addition to his own duties, and consequently, the field-work remaining to be done in the Southern Division, Kánara, was not taken in hand during the year.

10. Government orders on the Forest Settlement Report on the forests of the 73 villages of Honávar, referred to in paragraph 8 of last year's administration report, were not received until after the close of the year.

11. Settlement-proposals on the forests, of which the field-work was completed during the past year, are under preparation, except in regard to the 65 villages of Bhatkal, for which a report has been sent in.

12. The following area was notified under Section 4 of the Forest Act:—

	A.	g.
Kánara	352	17
Belgaum	1,092	5
Dhárwár	1,556	2
Bijápur	1,408	23
Ratnágiri	6	33
	4,416	...

13. The expenditure incurred on account of settlement during the year under report, was as detailed below:—

Not charged to Forests.

	Rs.
Salaries and allowances of the Forest Settlement Officer, Kanára	12,062

Charged to Forests.

Salaries and allowances of the Establishment employed under the Forest Settlement Officer, Kánara ...	3,947
Contingencies	1,791
Salaries, &c., of the Establishment of the late Dhárwár-Belgaum Settlement Office	123
Compensation	5,480
Total ...	23,403

14. The following statement in the form prescribed in paragraph 3 of Government Resolution No. 5068 of 29th June 1896, shows the settlement-work which actually remains to be done.

Names of Divisions.	Stages of outstanding work.							
	Occupied lands to be acquired			Land to be notified under Section 4.	Land to be settled under Section 7.	Land to be notified under Section 19.	Total.	Remarks.
	By exchange or compensation.		Land to be notified under Land Acquisition Act.					
	Negotiations proceeding.	Negotiations completed.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	Sq. m.	
Northern Division, Kánara.	...	...	...	...	·9	...	·9	
Southern do.	·09	·01	...	·12	13·93	663·396	677·546	
Western do.	...	·003	...	·1	11·704	335·846	347·653	
Belgaum	·396	·003	...	·315	1·706	6·404	8·824	
Dhárwár	...	·027	...	·204	3·425	3·172	6·828	
Bijápur	...	...	...	...	·056	...	·056	
Kolába	...	...	...	...	...	11·551	11·551	
Ratnágiri	...	...	...	...	·019	...	·019	
Total ...	0·486	0·043	..	0·739	31·740	1,020·369	1,053·377	

15. Of the area shown in column 7, against the three divisions of Kánara, settlement-proposals on 543 square miles have been sanctioned by Government and notifications for part of the area have also been published since the close of the year under report. The only forests for which reports have to be sent to Government, are those of the Bhatkal Petha and the Siddápur Táluka, and report for the former has just been received from the Forest Settlement Officer and is under review in this office. In Belgaum and Dhárwár, the areas shown are distributed over several tálukas and need no further explanation than that final notifications will, it is hoped, be shortly sent in by the respective ex-officio-Forest-Settlement-Officers. The Collector's report on the Mádrái villages in Kolábá has not yet been received.

16. Appendix 47 shows that the settlement of 4,160 square miles of forests was completed by the end of 1896-97, and that 976 square miles were undergoing settlement at the commencement of 1897-98; and, if the total 5,136 is deducted from the whole forest area of the Circle (5,278), it would seem that 142 square miles have still to be dealt with. The 976 square miles (undergoing settlement) together with the 142 square miles (remaining to be dealt with) or 1,118 square miles in all, do not, however, correspond with the total figures of outstanding work which amount to 1,053 square miles as shown in the table in paragraph 14 above. The difference of 65 square miles may be ascribed to the fact that the 'Protected area' in which are included the 142 square miles referred to, and which was originally gazetted under section 34 of the Forest Act, in Kánara, in the year 1879 (when the Revenue Survey operations of the forests were not completed) does not represent accurate figures, but we have to accept these figures until the survey shows their inaccuracy or otherwise and consequently they appear in Form No. 46A, pending final settlement of the Kánara forests.

(iii).—DEMARCATION.

Kánara.

17. In the three divisions of Kánara, 409 miles of boundary-lines were cleared of after-growth, &c., by the Forest Department at a cost of Rs. 5,740, as detailed in the margin, and 15 miles of new demarcation-lines were also opened in the Western Division at a cost of Rs. 448.

	No. of Miles.	Cost. Rs.
Northern Division, Kánara	... 333	3,996
Southern do.	... 30	896
Western do.	... 46	848
	409	5,740